



Conservation Strategy Development Process Overview

Since its development under the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 (Act) and adoption in 2012, the *Central Valley Flood Protection Plan* (CVFPP) has guided the State's participation in managing flood risk in areas protected by the State Plan of Flood Control. The CVFPP is a strategic, long-range plan, and its updates describe a programmatic vision for flood system improvements over time in accordance with the requirements of the Act. It includes recommendations on investments and policies to support comprehensive flood risk management actions locally, regionally, and systemwide.

The CVFPP was prepared by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and adopted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) in June 2012. As conceived by the Legislature, the CVFPP will be updated every 5 years, beginning in 2017.

The Conservation Strategy is a primary component of the 2017 CVFPP update. It is an informational document that identifies specific tools and approaches to support development of multi-benefit projects to restore processes, improve habitats, and benefit fish and wildlife as part of a sustainable flood management plan.

DWR has worked closely with a variety of stakeholders over the past 5 years to develop, refine, and improve the Conservation Strategy. In 2011, DWR convened the Conservation Strategy Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC) to engage State and federal natural resource and regulatory agencies in the development of the Conservation Strategy. DWR met with the IAC to gather input from member agencies and to look collectively toward application and implementation of the Conservation Strategy as a key component of the CVFPP.

In 2014, DWR conducted public workshops on developing measurable objectives, and during review of the administrative draft Conservation Strategy, stakeholders and resource agencies articulated that measureable objectives could help inform planning and project formulation, create synergies among various efforts, and help track progress toward achieving environmental and flood-related outcomes.

In 2015, the CVFPB convened the Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to assist with development of conservation objectives for consideration by the CVFPB. The Advisory Committee worked to create a common vision of success for implementation of conservation objectives in the Conservation Strategy and has prepared recommendations to the CVFPB related to implementation of the Conservation Strategy and CVFPP. The Advisory Committee submitted its recommendations to the CVFPB in October 2016. The Conservation Strategy and the public draft of the 2017 CVFPP update will incorporate Advisory Committee recommendations.

The 2016 draft Conservation Strategy, including its 17 appendices, is an update to the version published in 2015. It was revised based on comments submitted by private citizens, nongovernmental organizations, and federal, State, and regional agencies during the 2015 public review period. The current version of the Conservation Strategy, including the appendices, is posted on the DWR website: www.water.ca.gov/conservationstrategy/cs_new.cfm.

The next version of the Conservation Strategy will be released in 2022, concurrent with the CVFPP update.